



LEROY D. BACA, SHERIFF

County of Los Angeles
Sheriff's Department Headquarters
4700 Ramona Boulevard
Monterey Park, California 91754-2169



July 13, 2004

The Honorable Board of Supervisors
County of Los Angeles
383 Kenneth Hahn Hall of Administration
Los Angeles, California 90012

Dear Supervisors:

**RESPONSE TO THE ALLOCATION OF 5 MILLION DOLLARS FOR INMATE SAFETY
CHECKS AND 2.5 MILLION DOLLARS FOR SECURITY EQUIPMENT**

On June 21, 2004, the Los Angeles County Board of Supervisors approved \$5 million in additional personnel expenditures for jail safety and security. An additional \$2.5 million was allocated from the Inmate Welfare Fund for technological improvements including inmate movement and tracking. The Department has identified specific plans for the expenditure of these \$7.5 million.

Board of Supervisors Allocation

Compliance with Title 15 has always been a top priority of the Sheriff's Department. Specifically, and as required by Section 1027 of Title 15, the Department's goal is to be in full compliance with all inmate safety checks throughout the jail system. These checks are a matter of safety and security to both inmates and staff. In order to accomplish this goal, Custody Operations Division is deploying deputy sheriffs and custody assistants throughout five facilities. These personnel will be assigned the specific duty of ensuring compliance with the various sections of Title 15 and the hourly inmate safety checks. Five million dollars equates to approximately 50 jail safety and security employees.

A Custody Division manual section (Attachment A) has been written to codify the Sheriff's Department's requirement to comply with Title 15 in this regard. Per this manual section, each jail facility will be required to identify all Title 15 Compliance Officers on the daily employee rosters and are currently writing facility specific duty statements. The Title 15 Compliance Officer Program was effective July 1, 2004; the

A Tradition of Service

same day the manual section was published. Custody Support Services is currently monitoring the implementation of this program.

Sheriff's Department Allocation for Technology

The allocation of \$2.5 million from the Inmate Welfare Fund requires specific limitations under the laws governing the fund. These funds will be used for the improvement of facility security and enhanced tracking of inmate movement to and from inmate programs. Some of the technological improvements being considered are the expansion of the Defendant Inmate Movement Management System (DIMMS) to within the jails. DIMMS was originally developed and is currently used to track inmates between the Inmate Reception Center and the various courts. The technology with the most promise is Radio Frequency Identification (RFID). Active RFID computer chips would be placed into the inmates wristband and would allow for realtime tracking of inmates, storage of medical history, disciplinary history and cash-less vending purchases. Implementation of an active RFID system is under review for compatibility with other systems.

Video Cameras

The use of video cameras is a viable solution to increased security throughout the jail system. Currently, a pilot project is being implemented at Pitchess Detention Center, East Facility. This pilot project was approved by the Board of Supervisors on June 26, 2004. Security cameras are also being considered for Men's Central Jail. The feasibility of security cameras is being researched at Twin Towers Correctional Facility for two control points.

Pruno

One of the contributing factors to the rise in jail violence has been the production of the homemade alcoholic brew called "Pruno." Pruno is made through the fermentation of fruit. Custody Operations and Correctional Services Divisions have instituted several measures to make production less likely. Inmates are now issued personal property bags which help identify personal property versus excess or contraband items.

Removal of items from vending and meals that lend themselves to the production of pruno have been removed. Additionally, inmates discovered a new brewing method using ZEP brand soap; the use of this soap is being eliminated. Lastly, the Divisions have re-instituted the "Pruno Committee" to examine other methods of reducing the production of pruno. Some of the other areas being examined are the production of perforated plastic bags and an alternate distribution of fruit as required by Title 15.

Unstable Medical Conditions

Medical Services Bureau policy mandates inmates who require additional inpatient care, and who agree to such care, be released to an appropriate medical facility. Additionally, the Community Transition Unit (CTU), located at the Inmate Reception Center, offers released inmates transportation throughout the immediate downtown area and to most medical or mental health facilities via the Volunteers of America. CTU screens inmates upon release and provides specific attention when advised by Medical Services and/or the Department of Mental Health.

The Department's implementation of these enhancements will result in full compliance with Title 15. Full compliance with Title 15 equates to a safer jail environment for both staff and inmates. Those areas under review will be implemented following approval and identification of appropriate funding sources.

Should you have any further questions, please feel free to contact me or Chief John Scott at (213) 893-5001.

Sincerely,


LEROY D. BACA
SHERIFF

5-14/100.00 TITLE 15 COMPLIANCE OFFICER

Attachment A

The Title 15 Compliance Officer assists the Sheriff's Department in complying with the guidelines of Title 15. Personnel designated as a Title 15 Compliance Officer shall be assigned at the beginning of shift and shall hold this responsibility for the entirety of the shift, unless re-assigned by a supervisor at the permanent rank of Sergeant or above. Personnel assigned as the Title 15 Compliance Officer shall be designated on the daily in-service sheet. Each housing area shall have a minimum of one person assigned as the Title 15 Compliance Officer. Module control officers and personnel assigned to security booths shall not be assigned as Title 15 Compliance Officers.

The Title 15 Compliance Officer shall have the primary responsibility of ensuring compliance with Title 15, Article 3, Section 1027 and Custody Division Manual section 4-11/030.00, "Inmate Safety Checks." The duties of the Title 15 Compliance Officer include, but are not limited to:

- Conducting hourly safety checks in their assigned areas,
- Assisting in supervising and moving inmates scheduled for their recreation, visiting, and inmate meal times, as required in Title 15,
- Supplementing housing personnel in order to ensure compliance with all Title 15 issues.

Unit Commanders shall ensure duty statements of the Title 15 Compliance Officer are written and made available to all line personnel. It shall be the ultimate responsibility of each facilities' Unit Commander to ensure that there are adequate Title 15 Compliance Officers assigned and conducting their duties as required in this policy. Additionally, Unit Commanders shall include a summary of the Title 15 Compliance Officer program in their quarterly accountability reports.

4-11/030.00 INMATE SAFETY CHECKS

Attachment A

All inmates in our custody shall be visually checked at least once each hour to ensure their safety and welfare. The California Code of Regulations, Title 15, section 1027, requires hourly safety checks of inmates. Personnel conducting the safety checks shall document their checks in the Uniform Daily Activity Log books (U.D.A.L.).

Procedures for Conducting Safety Checks

Custody housing, movement, prowler, supervisory and other officers, conducting these checks shall look at the inmate(s) for obvious signs of life, i.e., breathing (chest rise and fall), talking, movement, etc. Personnel shall conduct these checks by passing by the doors/cells and by entering the dormitories of inmate housing areas, visually inspecting each inmate. Should there be any doubt regarding an inmates' condition, staff shall attempt to illicit a response from the inmate. If unable to illicit a response from the inmate, a supervisor and medical staff shall be requested. The supervisor and medical staff shall respond to the location and conduct an assessment. Proper officer safety shall be implemented prior to entering any inmate housing area.

Documenting Safety Checks

Immediately after the safety check is completed, the results shall be entered into the Uniform Daily Activity Log. The log shall contain, but not be limited to, the first and last name and employee number of the individual conducting the check, the location of the check, the time the check was made, and specific comments regarding the activity of the inmate(s).

Supervisors' Responsibility

See Custody Division Manual Section 4-11/020.00, Uniform Daily Activity Log (U.D.A.L.).

Frequency of Safety Checks

Listed below are the specific types of housing locations and intervals for the required safety checks.

| <u>Housing Areas</u> | <u>Interval</u> |
|---|--|
| General Population | Once per hour |
| Direct Supervision | Once per hour |
| Discipline / Administrative Segregation / Diminished Privilege environment | Twice per hour |
| Intake / Inmate Reception | Once per hour |
| Medical / Infirmary | Once per hour * |
| Suicidal / Mental Observation | Twice per 30 min.* (at least 15 min. apart) |

4-11/030.00 INMATE SAFETY CHECKS

Attachment A

Juveniles

Once per 30 min.

High Security / Gangs

Twice per hour

* Checks may be required more frequently as directed by Medical / Mental Health Staff.

As new housing areas and categories are established at any facility, the frequency of the safety check must be assessed and added to the above list to conform to current Title 15 regulations. It shall be the responsibility of the individual facilities creating the new category to notify Custody Support Services for policy review and revision.

Related Policy

Section 4-11/020.00, Uniform Daily Activity Log (U.D.A.L.).

Title 15 Safety and Security Compliance Deputy

Attachment A

| <u>MIRA LOMA</u> | | <u>Yearly Overtime</u> | <u>TOTAL</u> |
|------------------------|----|------------------------|-----------------------|
| Deputy | 0 | \$ 104,748.80 | \$0.00 |
| C/A | 0 | \$ 68,598.40 | \$0.00 |
| | | | |
| <u>NCCF</u> | | | |
| Deputy | 10 | \$ 104,748.80 | \$1,047,488.00 |
| C/A | 5 | \$ 68,598.40 | \$342,992.00 |
| | | | |
| <u>TTCF</u> | | | |
| Deputy | 21 | \$ 104,748.80 | \$2,199,724.80 |
| C/A | 16 | \$ 68,598.40 | \$1,097,574.40 |
| | | | |
| <u>NORTH</u> | | | |
| Deputy | 10 | \$ 104,748.80 | \$1,047,488.00 |
| C/A | 5 | \$ 68,598.40 | \$342,992.00 |
| | | | |
| <u>EAST</u> | | | |
| Deputy | 10 | \$ 104,748.80 | \$1,047,488.00 |
| C/A | 5 | \$ 68,598.40 | \$342,992.00 |
| | | | |
| <u>MCJ</u> | | | |
| Deputy | 22 | \$ 104,748.80 | \$2,304,473.60 |
| C/A | 0 | \$ 68,598.40 | \$0.00 |
| | | | |
| <u>TOTAL PERSONNEL</u> | | | |
| Deputy | 73 | | |
| C/A | 31 | <u>TOTAL COST</u> | \$9,773,212.80 |

*Salaries calculated utilizing Advanced Step 8 hourly overtime rate.